



**Grosse Pointe Board of Education**  
**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 23, 2009**  
**Library, Grosse Pointe North High School**  
**707 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236**

<p><b>MEETING MINUTES</b></p>  <p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b></p>	<p>President Kosinski called the meeting to order at 8:14 p.m. following the Board's work session.</p> <p>The Board began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Trustee Gafa.</p> <p><b>Board members present:</b> Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kratz, Kosinski, Steininger and Walsh</p> <p><b>Absent:</b> Trustee Minturn</p> <p><b>Also Present:</b> Superintendent Klein; Assistant Superintendents Allan, Fenton and Harwood; Executive Director Warras</p>
<p><b>SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT</b></p>	<p>President Kosinski asked the Board for their consideration in approving the <b>Distinguished District Employee Awards</b> out of the regular order as listed on the agenda.</p> <p><b>It was Moved by:</b> Trustee Dindoffer <b>Supported by:</b> Trustee Kratz</p> <p><b>THAT the Board approve the Distinguished District Employees Awards Resolution for those employees as presented.</b></p> <p><b>Ayes:</b> Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Steininger and Walsh <b>Nays:</b> None                      <b>Absent:</b> Trustee Minturn <b>Motion carried by a 6 – 0 vote.</b></p> <p><b>A. Chris Wigent, RESA Superintendent</b></p> <p>Dr. Klein then introduced Mr. Chris Wigent, Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency's (WCRESA) Superintendent. Mr. Wigent shared his greetings from WCRESA noting that he was visiting all of the 34 school districts in Wayne County and their Boards of Education to update them on services offered by WCRESA as well as learn about the services and the leadership needed to help local school districts. Mr. Wigent added that WCRESA pro used in the district.</p> <p><b>B. Distinguished Employee Service Awards</b></p> <p>President Kosinski noted that Mrs. Gafa and Mr. Minturn were the board committee for the Distinguished Employee Service Awards. In Mr. Minturn's absence, Mrs. Kosinski has asked Mrs. Gafa to lead the award presentation.</p> <p>Mrs. Gafa said that the Distinguished Employee Service Awards were initiated in 2008 to recognize those employees who have initiated a new program, service, or activity and/or who have served the district above and beyond their daily employee responsibilities. This year employees being recognized for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Distinguished District Employee Awards are: George Flora, Mary Kilimas, Kari Krausmann, Alan Letkowski, Julie Leto, Jane McCaughrin, Emily Rennpage and Isha Smith.</p>

Dr. Klein asked Mr. Wigent and Board President, Alice Kosinski to present the awards to the employees being honored.

### **C. November 3, 2009 Election Results**

Dr. Klein noted that both millages were approved by over 70% of voters, saying that was “wonderful news for the district”. She added that two of the many staff and volunteers who worked so diligently to get the information out to the community were being recognized and honored for that hard work: Helen Srebernak and Allison Baker. Dr. Klein thanked both for their commitment and service to the school district and community.

Dr. Klein also announced election results for the Board of Education: Mrs. Pangborn and Mr. Jakubiec who will take the oath of office and join the Board formally in January, and Mrs. Dindoffer will return to the Board for another four-year term.

Dr. Klein announced that both high schools have announced the recognition of Advanced Placement Scholars, students who take the College Board exams and earn recognition for their levels of achievement. Over 260 students from the district high schools received this very prestigious recognition.

Dr. Klein also noted the concerts and instrumental programs, plays and special events across the district over the next several weeks. All are welcome at the Annual Holiday Tea on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at North High School.

President Kosinski then called for a short recess for a reception in honor of those staff and parents recognized this evening.

President Kosinski then asked Board members for their consideration in moving item **A. Approval of the Gift from the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education** out of the designated order of agenda.

Mr. Robert Bury, President of the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education said that the board of the GPFPE met on November 12, 2009 and approved funding for the following grant requests from staff members:

- Social Studies Bin Supplies (All 2nd Grade Classes) - To restock and expand materials bins with additional Social Studies materials used for classroom instruction and matching current curriculum - **\$1,532**
- FOSS Science Kits (Grades 4 & 5) – Expanding science kit curriculum materials for classroom instruction - **\$1,696**
- Enhancing Economic Literacy (All Elementary Classrooms K -5) – Expanding software and other classroom materials for the social studies curriculum units on economics as part of the multidisciplinary instructional approach - **\$17,786** (This funding will be provided over two school years).
- Pierce National Junior Honor Society Read Across America Pilot Project (100 Pierce students and K-5 @ 3 Elementary Schools) - Funds will purchase books for Pierce NJHS students to read to the elementary school students - **\$498**.
- Poupard - Diverse Differentiated Materials (Poupard K-5) – Books will be purchased for the Literacy Library at Poupard to teach reading to small groups of



**I. Parent Co-Chair of the Human Sexuality Advisory Board**

**J. Recommendation on Student Reinstatement**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Kratz

**THAT the Board approve the Consent Agenda as listed.**

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Trustee Minturn

**Motion carried by a 6– 0 vote.**

**H. Approval of Out of Country Field Trip to Greece**

On Friday, February 12, 2010, South High Schools Pointe Singers, under the direction of Ellen Bowen, would like to make a trip to Greece and Crete. The students have received invitations to perform at the annual Athens Carnival, in Crete for the Mayor of Herakilion, to have an exchange day and concert with the Crete Arts School and to perform a charity concert for the Greek Children’s Charity. The group would depart on February 12<sup>th</sup> travel by air and return February 20, 2010.

**THAT the Board approve the South High School Choir Out-of-Country Field Trip to Greece.**

**It was Moved by:** Trustee Walsh

**Supported by:** Trustee Steininger

**Ayes:** Trustees Dindoffer, Gafa, Kosinski, Kratz, Steininger and Walsh

**Nays:** None

**Absent:** Trustee Minturn

**Motion carried by a 6– 0 vote.**

**ACTION ITEMS FOR  
DECEMBER 14, 2009**

**A. Approval of Human Resources Report for November, 2009**

The Human Resources Report contains the appointments, recalls, resignations and retirements of employees from various employee groups. Dr. Klein noted the retirement of Wilma McSkimming from Maire Elementary School after 27 years of service.

**B. Approval of Closed, Work Session and Regular Meeting Minutes of  
November 23, 2009**

The minutes of November 23, 2009 will be available before the next meeting of the Board.

**C. Approval of Elementary Music Textbooks**

Information on the elementary music textbooks will be available prior to the next regular meeting of the Board.

## **D. Approval of New Courses**

### **1. Introduction to Calculus**

Changes in state law and corresponding changes in the district's graduation requirements mandate that students complete four years of high school mathematics including a math course or a math related course in their senior year. (There are a few exceptions within the personal curriculum option.)

Students need flexible fourth year options in math. These are particularly needed for students took the accelerated Algebra I course in middle school and who have completed pre-calculus but are not quite ready for a full AP Calculus course. When the math curriculum was last approved it included a "Discrete Math" course for a fourth year option. The high school math departments feel that students would be better served by a semester Introduction to Calculus course that would provide a foundation for a college Calculus course.

The Introduction to Calculus course could be taken in conjunction with the proposed statistics course or with a semester math-related course in another content area to allow students flexible options with which to continue their math education.

### **2. Statistics Course**

Changes in state law and corresponding changes in the district's graduation requirements mandate that students complete four years of high school mathematics including a math course or a math related course in their senior year. (There are a few exceptions within the personal curriculum option.)

Students need flexible fourth year options in math. These are particularly needed for students took the accelerated Algebra I course in middle school and who have completed pre-calculus but are not quite ready for a full AP Calculus course. When the math curriculum was last approved it included a "Discrete Math" course for a fourth year option. The high school math departments feel that students would be better served by a semester Statistics course that would provide a foundation for college level studies. In addition, the study of statistics has taken on increasing importance at most colleges and universities and additional preparation in high school would be valuable for many students.

The Statistics course could be taken in conjunction with the proposed Introduction to Calculus course or with a semester math-related course in another content area to allow students flexible options with which to continue their math education.

## **G. Approval of Revisions to Board Policies**

### **1. 5771, Search and Seizure**

The Board of Education has charged school authorities with the responsibility of safeguarding the safety and well-being of the students in their care. In the discharge of that responsibility, school authorities may search school property such as lockers used by students or the person or property, including vehicles, of a student, in accordance with the policy.

Two statements have been added at the recommendation of legal counsel. This policy also permits the use of canines to detect the presence of drugs or devices. Page 7 of the proposed guidelines was also provided for reference and deals with searches using canines.

## **2. 2270, Religion in the Curriculum**

The Board of Education believes that an understanding of religions and their effects on civilization is essential to the thorough education of young people and to their appreciation of a pluralistic society. To that end, curriculum may include as appropriate to the various ages and attainments of the students, instruction about the religions of the world.

A reference is made in paragraph 4 to Board Policy 2240, Controversial Issues.

## **3. 2371, Tutoring in Voice and Instrumental Music**

The superintendent may authorize tutors of voice and instrumental music to provide supplemental instruction to students in school system buildings if it is in the best interest of the student.

This policy was carried over from the old policy manual but was inadvertently omitted as the new policy book was approved.

## **4. 9251, Community Involvement in Decision Making**

The Board of Education endorses the concept that community participation in the affairs of the District is essential if Board members, staff members, and citizens are to maintain mutual confidence and respect and work together to improve the quality of educational programs and services. The Board will endeavor to identify the desires of the community and to be responsive, through its actions, to those desires.

This was formerly Administrative Guideline 9510 that the Policy Committee believed should be made a policy.

## **5. 9510, Education Research Agencies**

The contributions of appropriate educational research to teaching and school administration are recognized by the Board. The Board may cooperate when feasible with colleges, universities and other recognized agencies to promote educational research that shall:

- Increase professional knowledge of teaching and learning processes and social settings in which they operate;
- Define and seek solutions to instructional and administrative problems;
- Establish instructional and management objectives; and
- Assess progress toward accomplishment of district objectives.

This policy was carried over from the old policy manual but was inadvertently omitted as the new policy book was approved.

## **6. 2380, Equivalent Education Outside the Schools (Home Schooling)**

The Board of Education encourages the enrollment of all school-age children residing in this District in public schools or in State-approved, nonpublic schools so that

they may enjoy the benefits of a well-planned, educational program and the socialization possible in a group environment. The Board acknowledges, however, the right of parents to home school within the District, as established by State law.

Policy 9270 has been renumbered and placed in a more appropriate policy section.

**7. 5111, Eligibility of Resident/Non-Resident**

Administrative procedures governing residency and the admission of students shall be designed in such a way that enrollment is handled expeditiously and with the least possible inconvenience to both parents and students.

The title has been renamed “Enrollment Eligibility of Students” to better reflect the intent of the policy.

**8. 5463, Credits from Non-Public Schools**

In recognizing its responsibility to uphold the minimum educational standards of the State of Michigan, the Board of Education establishes the policy and criteria regarding the acceptance of credits from nonpublic schools whether they be State-approved, non-approved, or home schools.

The last paragraph was deleted to make handling of credit for non-public school students consistent with the manner in which credits for public school students is handled.

**9. 7250, Commemoration and Naming of School Facilities**

From time-to-time, the Board of Education may wish to commemorate a school or District facility (gymnasium, swimming pool, athletic field, etc.) by means of a plaque, naming the facility after a person, or some other honor. Such commemoration should be reserved only for those individuals who have made a significant contribution to the enhancement of education generally or the District in particular or to the well-being of the District, community, State or nation.

The title of a subsection has been modified to better reflect its intent.

**10. 8330, Student Records**

In order to provide appropriate educational services and programming, the Board of Education must collect, retain, and use information about individual students. The Board recognizes the need to safeguard student's privacy and restrict access to student's personally identifiable information.

A correction of a typographical error on page 4 has been made.

**INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION**

**A. Monthly Financials**

Mr. Fenton explained that the monthly financials included the check register, G.A.A.A.'s and monthly financial summaries which reflect balances in various accounts. All reports have been posted on the district website. The district anticipates another G.A.A.A. due to additional changes in state funding. The change in fund equity of \$17.5 million is also reflected in the financial reports.

	<p>Mr. Fenton also noted mid-year strategies for budget adjustments that have been developed by the administrative staff. Those strategies include: hiring freeze for all positions except for long-term teacher subs; continued reductions in custodial overtime; no substitutes or replacements for support staff; continue to limit supply purchases and capital outlay; freeze on out-of-town travel; and continue to look at ways to reduce repairs by maintenance.</p> <p>Guests from Browne and Browne provided an overview of the district’s medical insurance costs and their services to the district over a three-year period.</p> <p><b>B. Academic Benchmark Report</b></p> <p>Dr. Allan noted that the district uses the same format for which we do benchmarking in our financial reports. It is intended to be a “10,000 foot view” and looks at the district as a whole and in comparison with other districts. The report summarizes major measures used to assess the progress of the district’s students and the effectiveness of curriculum and instruction. Dr. Allan noted that since assessments are not always comparable, the district looks for multiple measures whenever possible. In order for data to be maximally useful and “actionable” it must be disaggregated by individual schools and for different groups of students.</p> <p>The compressed Learning Results AP/IB Benchmarking Report was highlighted from those districts used in comparison with the addition of a column for “ranking”. Dr. Allan also presented and reported learning results on the Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment showing trends for students achieving “satisfactory or above” from 2005-06 school year to 2008-09 school year.</p>
<b>FUTURE MEETINGS</b>	<p>President Kosinski noted that there will be a Closed Session on Monday, November 30, 2009 at 7 p.m. at the Administration Building, 389 St. Clair. There will be a Work Session on Monday, December 14, 2009 at 6 p.m. at North High School in the Library followed by a Regular Meeting of the Board at 8:00 p.m. in the <b>North High School</b> Library.</p>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-ACTION ITEMS</b>	<p>There were no comments at this time.</p>
<b>OTHER COMMENTS FROM BOARD AND SUPERINTENDENT</b>	<p>Board members and Dr. Klein congratulated those employees honored this evening for the outstanding service to the district. They also thanked Helen Srebernak and Allison Baker, as well as many others, for their work on the millage campaign.</p> <p>Mr. Fenton, Mr. Harwood and Mrs. Smith were also thanked for their comprehensive work on the budget and financial information as well as the cohesive list of mid-year cuts. The Foundation for Public Education was thanked for the continued support of and gifts to the school district.</p> <p>Congratulations were offered to Cindy Pangborn, Tom Jakubiec and Joan Dindoffer for winning election to the Board.</p> <p>Board members also noted various activities and events that they attended thanking those who worked so hard to make these events possible.</p> <p>Dr. Klein again noted the Holiday Tea on Wednesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Performing Arts</p>



	Center at North High School. She congratulated Trombly Elementary School for their recognition and the plaque for their Beautification Award recently received.
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b>	There being no further business, President Kosinski adjourned the meeting at 10:27 p.m.

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Board Secretary